Smart cards for overseas citizens

428. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide smart cards for overseas citizens;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) would now be treated at par with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and would be entitled for same FDI investments in sectors like aviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the percentage of equity in domestic airlines by NRIs and PIOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will supplement the Overseas Citizenship Registration Certificate. The details are yet to be worked out.

(c) and (d) So far PIO card holders have not been treated at par with NRIs in so far as FDI in domestic aviation is concerned.

Facilities available to PIOs and NRIs

429. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) enjoy same parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of all facilities available to the later in economic, financial, aviation and educational fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investment of PIOs are treated at par with NRIs in domestic aviation sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Parity of PIO card holders with NRIs in this sector is still under consideration of the Ministries concerned.

Investment policy with regard to NRIs and PIOs

430. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government with regard to investments by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in domestic aviation sector;

(b) whether the policy decision has the approval of Group of Ministers/ Cabinet;

(c) what would be the benefits to NRIs and PIOs as far as their FDI in domestic air transport service is concerned after the promulgation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005;

(d) whether investment of PIOs will henceforth be treated at par with NRIs in domestic air transport service; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) NRIs are allowed to invest upto 100% in domestic airlines, under the automatic route. This facility has not been extended to PIOs.

(b) No.

(c) The benefits that Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) will be entitled to be notified by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs by virtue of the amendment to Citizenship Act under section 7B of the said Act. Among the benefits OCIs will be entitled to be treated at par with NRIs in educational, cultural and economic areas.